

VZCZCXRO7229
PP RUEHBI
DE RUEHLM #0281 0451037
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 141037Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5446
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0218
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 0181
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6856
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 4926
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3544
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0644
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 3633
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0985
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0314
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2713
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 7425
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 5146
RUEHON/AMCONSUL TORONTO 0108
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1815
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0537
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 000281

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/INS, USPACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/14/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: UNP WITHDRAWS FROM APRC BUT PLEDGES TO SUPPORT
CREDIBLE DEVOLUTION PLAN

Classified By: Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr. for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Upon receipt of press reports that the opposition UNP party planned to abandon the all-parties committee process, Ambassador called UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe to express concern and reaffirm the crucial role the UNP has to play in working with the government to develop a strong and credible devolution proposal.

12. (C) Wickremesinghe confirmed the UNP will not attend APRC meetings because such meetings came under the purview of the now defunct Memorandum of Understanding between the SLFP and UNP. However, Wickremesinghe reassured Ambassador that the UNP will continue to work quietly with APRC Chairman Tissa Vitarana to shape a credible devolution proposal. He also said that the UNP would support a SLFP devolution proposal in Parliament provided falls within the framework of the UNP paper submitted by the UNP representative to the APRC, Mr. KN Chokse, and meets Tamil and Muslim demands. Ambassador thanked Wickremesinghe for this reassurance and urged him to make his position clear and thereby refute perceptions that the UNP no longer planned to support a credible devolution proposal. Wickremesinghe said he would do so.
BLAKE